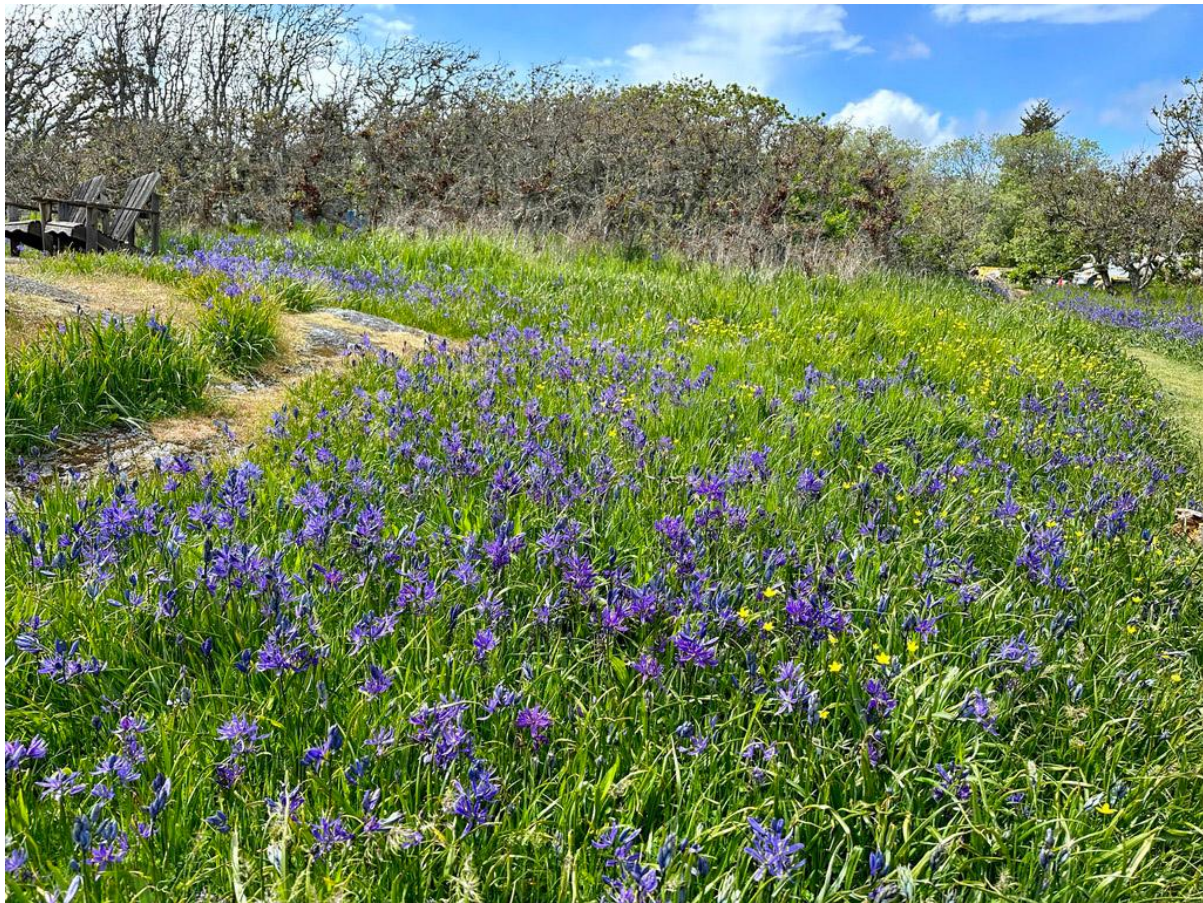




GARRY OAK MEADOW
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Welcome to our E-news

SUMMER 2024



Kwetlal (camas) at Uplands Park in Oak Bay.

WHO WE ARE

The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) formed in 1992 because local citizens were concerned that woodlands and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of expanding human habitation in the Capital Regional District. Our society is dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) stands and their

natural habitats.

We are a grassroots group helping to make a difference! We are 100% volunteer run. **Will you join us?**

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help us engage in educational activities, work with all levels of government through letter writing, attend council meetings and public hearings to raise awareness on the importance of Garry oaks and their ecosystems, and work in GOMPS Garry oak nursery.

DONATIONS

Donate to GOMPS effortlessly through Canada Helps and support our mission to protect Garry oaks and their ecosystems. We are a registered society in BC with a charitable status recognized by CRA (141110908 RR0001). By donating through Canada Helps, you will receive a charitable tax receipt. Thank you!



Donate

MEMBERSHIP

Join GOMPS today by filling out our printable membership form or make a donation via our website. Tax receipts provided.

But wait, there's more! We're thrilled to announce that we're currently developing an online form to accept memberships and donations through e-transfer and credit cards. Your support means the world to us, so thank you for being a part of this project. Stay tuned for updates! ♥



**Printable Membership
Form**

Nursery Report Summer 2024



Catastrophic Loss Due to Cold Snap

Greater Victoria, including the Saanich Peninsula, where the GOMPS nursery is located, experienced a severe cold event in mid-January this year. Nursery volunteers waited until the end of June to count and set aside Garry oak seedlings that did not leaf out. The net result was that we lost 38% of our seedling inventory. The final count was 1,242 dead seedlings.



Group 5: Above left: May 19. Above right: June 02.

Garry Oak Seedlings Distribution by Organization Type

Our nursery records indicate that the number of seedlings provided to various organizations has fluctuated over the years.

**GOMPS GARRY OAK SEEDLINGS
DISTRIBUTION DETAILS FOR PAST 5 YEARS**

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Local Government		378	326	186	131	70	1091
Other Nurseries						240	240
Private Individuals		22	6	20	19	9	76
Restoration Groups		6		20	80	80	186
TOTALS		406	332	226	230	399	1593
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Local Government		93%	98%	82%	57%	18%	68%
Other Nurseries		0%				60%	15%
Private Individuals		5%	2%	9%	8%	2%	5%
Restoration Groups		1%		9%	35%	20%	12%
TOTALS		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Garry Oak Seedlings Available

GOMPS NURSERY INVENTORY as of July 14, 2024

Nursery Product	Count	1 Gal	2 Gal	3 Gal	Air Prune	Tall
Seedlings Available	2,163	1,612	393	6	28	124

Are you planning to plant some Garry oak seedlings this year?



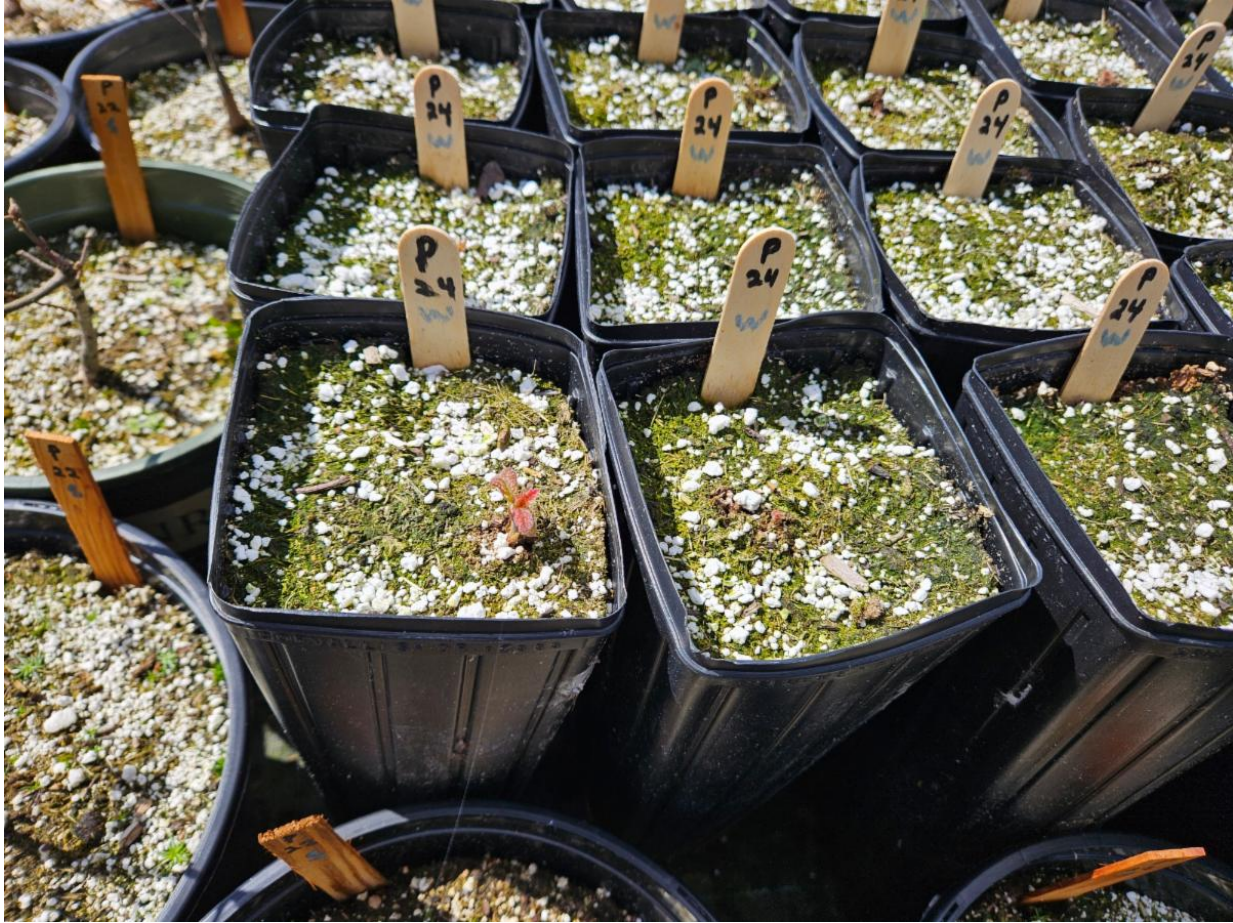
Planting the Next Generation of Garry oaks (see circled trees) - Picture taken at Beacon Hill Park April 9, 2024.

We have lots of Garry oak seedlings ready to be planted. Fall is the best time to plant Garry oaks as the Fall and Winter rains assist the root development of young seedlings to enable survival during the following summer drought period on Vancouver Island and the surrounding region. Garry oak trees are slow-growing for the first 3 to 7 years but, once established in the ground, they can grow one to two feet per year after that.

Please note that Garry oak seedling survival is enhanced with the use of stakes, protective caging to prevent browsing/damage, mulching, and supplemental water during drought periods.

Our society grows Garry oak seedlings with a view to restoring and/or infilling existing Garry oak meadows and associated ecosystems. If you have a large Garry oak(s) on your property, have you thought about planting the next generation of Garry oak(s)? Please contact us at [**grow.oaks@gmail.com**](mailto:grow.oaks@gmail.com) for more information.

New Seedlings



Photos by Judith Carder. Acorns are sprouting in the tall pots planted in Jan/Feb under an inch of soil.



Photo by Judith Carder. Thirty GOMPS Nursery seedlings are on their way to new homes - for various locations in support of non-profit groups restoring Garry oak ecosystems. Feb 2024.



Photo by Judy Spearing. GOMPS seedlings planted by Brodick/Bow Parks group on Feltham Trail in 2023 are doing well.

ADVOCACY

Rosewall Creek restoration



Rosewall Creek Restoration, Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society

GOMPS Director Judith Carder visited the Rosewall Creek Restoration site in March 2024. GOMPS donated Garry oak 3 x 1gal seedlings and 3 x 2gal seedlings (6 seedlings in total) to the Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society to get them started with their restoration project.

The Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Mapping Project



Photo by Carollyne Yardley. On July 6th, 2024 volunteers with the Victoria Community Association Network Mapping Project toured Kings Park (Fernwood), led by GOMPS President Ryan Senechal, an arborist/urban forester.



Photo by Carollyne Yardley. Kings Park, Fernwood Neighbourhood, City of Victoria. Among the Garry oak

trees in the park, one old growth tree stands at an impressive age of 500 years.

VCAN has initiated a community mapping project to identify potential priority park acquisitions within the City of Victoria. The project will pinpoint three areas of promise in each neighbourhood to conserve and enhance the Garry oak ecosystem, aligning with the city's vision for a sustainable and vibrant community.

The idea for the mapping project originated during the monthly meetings of VCAN, a collective of representatives from various community associations in the City of Victoria. Our primary objectives are to keep stakeholders informed and educated on matters of common interest, shape public policies at both municipal and regional levels, and occasionally undertake community projects that have a broad impact across the city and region. VCAN comprises 12 distinct neighbourhoods, namely Burnside Gorge, Downtown, Fairfield/Gonzales, Fernwood, Hillside Quadra, James Bay, North Jubilee, South Jubilee, North Park, Oaklands, Rockland, and Victoria West.

VCAN also aims to educate and raise awareness about old growth Garry oak trees found in the urban environment. On July 6th we toured Kings Park (Fernwood), led by GOMPS President Ryan Senechal, an arborist/urban forester.

Kings Park (1150 Caledonia Ave) is home to Garry oak trees that have been preserved since pre-settlement times. These trees have been managed using Indigenous *ləkʷəŋən* fire regimes, reflecting a rich cultural history associated with this place. Among the Garry oak trees in the park, one stands at an impressive age of 500 years, while the others range between 175 and 200 years old and qualify as old growth according to provincial definition.

Originally a residential lot with a house, the park was donated by the owner (estate) and transformed into a public space managed by the city. Ten seedlings were planted a decade ago to contribute to the preservation of these trees. Unfortunately, one of the seedlings was vandalized recently.

Securing and preserving more spaces with mature Garry oaks and spaces for urban forest scaffolding like Kings Park is crucial for passing on Indigenous traditions and maintaining a temporal connection for urban youth. It is essential to recognize and prioritize these spaces in urban forestry for their continuation.

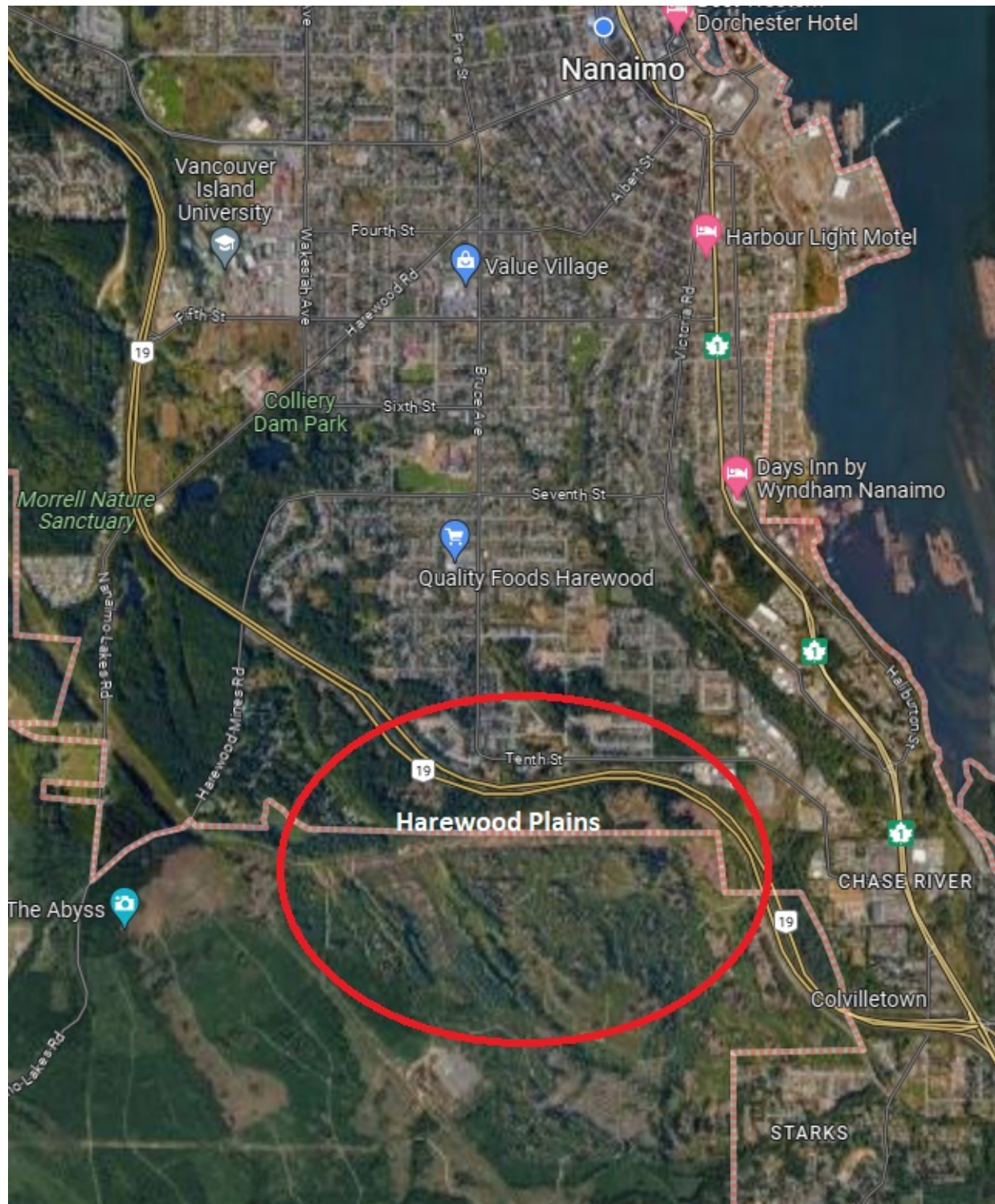
The challenge lies in connecting people to this space and others like it, beyond merely focusing on conservation and biodiversity. One idea is to create an elevated and accessible tree platform that protects the roots of the Garry oak trees. Additionally, planting kwetlal (camas) and community volunteer opportunities can further engage the community. The presence of black-tailed deer and their contribution to fertilization through their droppings has been a natural process for thousands of years.

Unfortunately, there is a concerning trend of removing these trees without adequate

replacement.

📍 Downtown Residents Association, Oaklands, Hillside-Quadra, Fernwood, James Bay, Gonzales, North Jubilee, and Rockland communities for their participation today. The VCAN Mapping Project is sponsored by the City of Victoria's My Great Neighbourhood Grant.

Harewood Plains Update



Screen capture from the Harewood Plains website. nalt.bc.ca/harewood-plains/

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) continues to collaborate with a working group, including Nature Nanaimo, to protect the unique natural values of the Harewood Plains.

Harewood Plains is located at the south end of the City of Nanaimo. It is bounded by the Nanaimo Parkway to the north, McKeown Way to the east, and Harewood Mines Road to the west, and home to a mixture of critically imperilled ecological communities that includes open Garry oak woodlands and vernal seeps.

Along with other organizations, NALT has sent comments to the City of Nanaimo's Subdivision Approving Officer listing our concerns about the threat that the proposed subdivision and planned development poses to the Plains including to the critical habitat of three endangered plant species present in the area.

On the evening of March 4th, Nanaimo City council passed a motion requesting that the Province of BC and the Federal Government work with rights holders and stake holders to protect the Harewood Plains. Delegations from NALT, Nature Nanaimo and Kiki Nursery spoke in favour of the motion. Councillors received more than 500 messages of support from our community.

The motion also brought the focus of local media to the efforts to protect the Harewood Plains. CHLY Radio, Chek TV and the Nanaimo News Bulletin reported on the motion.

The working group is now working to identify next steps for effective engagement with provincial and federal politicians to further support the City's motion. Stay tuned for more information about how to support this important conservation effort.

<https://nalt.bc.ca/harewood-plains/>

<https://www.cheknews.ca/city-of-nanaimo-calls-on-other-governments-to-preserve-harewood-plains-1194191/>

EVENTS



Photo by Susan Grant. Fundraiser organized by the Sierra Club at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, May 29, 2024.

On May 29, 2024, GOMPS Directors Susan Grant and Judy Spearing attended a fundraiser organized by the Sierra Club BC at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific. The organizers requested we donate some of our Garry oak seedlings. They dressed the pots with jute ribbon and made beautiful centrepieces with our oaks, some wildflower nursery stock from Satinflower Nursery and some additional greens. The attached photo shows an example of the displays. At the end of the event our donations were given away to interested attendees for them to plant out.

Kwetlal / Camus Day at Cattle Point with the Friends of Uplands Park.





On Sunday, May 5th, 2024 the Friends of Uplands Park invited GOMPS and its volunteers to come join *Kwetlal / Camas Day* other like-minded groups working to protect and restore the parks and natural areas of southeastern Vancouver Island in a celebration of Garry oak ecosystems.

Uplands Park is one of the best examples of the endangered Garry oak ecosystems and is home to over 26 rare plant species. Uplands Park is also the heart of Oak Bay's Naturehood. It includes a rocky marine foreshore, Cattle Point.

Volunteers Susan Grant, Carollyne Yardley, Jacklyn Jolicoeur attended and Carol Milo dropped in to say hello as well.

2024 Conference

October 5th

@
UVic

...more details
in the coming weeks!

goert.ca/activities/events

info@goert.ca

[@garryoakeco](https://twitter.com/garryoakeco)

NEWS



LETTER: New strategy fails to address crisis in Saanich parks. Saanich's new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy ignores key recommendations.

Saanich News July 12, 2024

The new Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS), recently approved by Saanich council, ignores the comprehensive programs put forward by the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC). Council put the RSTC in place to advise on these issues. The RSTC recommended the following comprehensive programs: a private land stewardship program, a species-at-risk management program, new ecosystem mapping to replace inaccurate mapping, and a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program. This last program would include significant access restrictions in Saanich parks to protect special ecosystems. Mapping would include ecological condition assessment, to determine restoration needs for each park.

<https://www.saanichnews.com/opinion/letter-new-strategy-fails-to-address-crisis-in-saanich-parks-7436704>

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We'd love to hear from all interested volunteers!



We host weekly Garry Oak Nursery work parties on Sunday mornings from 10am to 1pm to keep our oaks growing and healthy.

The Nursery work area is outdoors and structured so volunteers can safely join Board members on site. Learn more about **[volunteering here!](#)**

*Please note there are certain areas within our premises where children may inadvertently put themselves at risk. Our activities may involve planting and transplanting seedlings. Considering the nature of the tools we utilize, our volunteer work requires care and attention to process. Training is provided.



Photo by Judith Carder. Nursery with green seedlings.

The GOMPS Volunteer Garry Oak Nursery has been in operation since 2017 to meet the challenge of producing locally sourced Garry oaks. The Nursery project is run by a task force drawn from members of GOMPS and addresses the rapid loss of Greater Victoria, Southeastern Vancouver Island & Gulf Island's native flagship tree - the Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) - our province's only native oak.

Garry oak ecosystems are among the most endangered ecosystems in Canada with **only 3%** remaining in a natural state. In Canada, they are only found in British Columbia, on the southeastern tip of Vancouver Island, some of the Gulf Islands and a few spots on the mainland. We are looking for more volunteers to help at the nursery. Please connect with us and help grow the oaks!

Volunteering at the Garry Oak Nursery

What you can do at home

Help us collect acorns

Become a Member or Donate



Photo by Ryan Senechal. Camas meadow at Playfair Park, Saanich, BC.

Garry Oak Tree and Garry Oak Ecosystem Facts

- The ɬə́kwəŋən word for Garry oak ecosystem is Čəŋə́łč or Kwetlal
- The SENĆOŦEN word for Garry oak is ČEN,ɬŁĆ and pronounced Chung-ae-th-ch
- The HUL'Q'UMI'NUM word is p'hwulhp
- Garry oak ecosystems were shaped by Indigenous agroecological management over thousands of years.
- This population of oaks connects ɬə́kwəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ people with their lands, traditions, foods, medicines, cultural practices, and ancestors.
- Of the family Fagaceae, and the genus Quercus. *Quercus garryana*, was named by Botanist David Douglas in the early 1800's to honor his friend Nicholas Garry, an officer in the Hudson Bay Company.
- Garry oak ecosystems arrived after the glacial retreat approximately 10,000 years ago, and at least 1,645 organisms (plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.) have co-evolved with them.
- Garry oak ecosystems in Canada are some of the rarest, and the area they occupy is declining in large part due to development
- The largest urban oak in Victoria is on Falkland Rd. near Beach Dr. in Oak Bay

Territorial Acknowledgement

The GOMPS Volunteer Garry Oak Nursery is located on the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people encompassing the five local communities: BO,́KE,́ĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), W̱ JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), W̱ ,SIKEM (Tseycum), and S,ȚAUTW̱ (Tsawout). We acknowledge and thank the W̱SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, learn, work, and teach. Our advocacy efforts extend over the lə́kʷəŋən territory, known today as the Esquimalt (Kosapsom) and Songhees Nations. The W̱SÁNEĆ and lə́kʷəŋən people have lived and worked on this land since time immemorial and whose historical relationship to the land and territories continues to this day.

Connect with us!



Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society | Saanich Peninsula | Victoria BC, BC V8P3T7 CA

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